



BARBARA PATRICK
SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

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MAY 04 1998

April 27, 1998

CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Ste 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments to the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS

Dear Sirs:

According to the most recent data from the state Department of Water Resources, California's population will rise from its current 32 million people to 49 million by the year 2020. Kern County's population is forecast to nearly double in that same period, from 763,000 to 1.3 million. The bottom line is that *Californians, and Kern County, need more water.* This is not just the need for drinking water, but also water to grow food and fiber. Water conservation, while it should be a part of the CALFED solution, alone cannot possibly make up the difference between what California's water supply system can provide and what the state needs. Kern County is already one of the most water-efficient regions in the state. We are pleased to see that a large-scale agricultural land retirement program, as a means to reduce water demand, is not a part of the draft EIR/EIS. We in Kern County are not interested in downsizing our economy, especially if our population is going to double.

Everyone's livelihood depends on an abundant, dependable supply of water. CALFED must choose an alternative that balances the need to supply the state and our county with a reliable water supply, while restoring the damaged Delta ecosystem.

The three proposed alternatives have been assigned a range of costs. We all know that cost estimates for large-scale programs and facilities construction usually fall far short of actual costs. Therefore, I think we can expect that the selected alternative will cost more than these rough estimates. Kern County water managers, and the citizens and farmers they supply, must be assured that they will be receiving the benefits they pay for from a CALFED solution, and no more. In the past, water users have footed the bill not just for water facilities construction, transportation and treatment costs, but also for nearly *all of the environmental mitigation programs currently in place.* In addition, water users have seen their available water supply dwindle due to environmental regulations, while costs have not been reduced at all. *This is not right.* The CALFED alternative selected

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must contain assurances that since the public of the state of California at large will benefit from the restoration of the Bay-Delta, the entire state should help to pay. We in Kern County are quite willing to pay our fair share. We are not willing, however, to continue to be the "deep pocket" for additional regulatory requirements. Our local economy cannot support it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Patrick". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Barbara Patrick

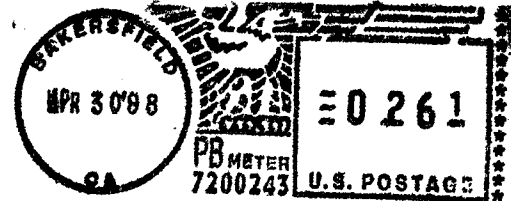


BARBARA PATRICK
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